

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Barlow Youth Football Association (BYFA)?

Barlow Youth Football is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to offering a full-contact football program for boys and girls in grades 3rd - 6th living in the Barlow High School attendance boundaries. We are part of the Tualatin Valley Youth Football League and not supported or a member of the Gresham-Barlow School District athletic programs. Our mission is to provide playing opportunities for the youth of the Barlow community to enhance our middle school and high school football programs. We compete in the Harrison Division and play our games against other local TVYFL football associations, such as Gresham, Centennial, David Douglas, Sandy, Reynolds, Estacada, Colton, Gladstone, and Molalla. Our home field is the artificial turf field at Barlow High School for Saturday games. Our staff will be working with the BHS Varsity Head Football Coach (Terry Summerfield) to acquaint the young athletes through practice, football camps and coaching clinics with an emphasis on common terminology and defensive formations throughout their athletic years in the Gresham-Barlow School District. We want youth football to be a positive experience for everyone involved!

What is the Tualatin Valley Youth Football League (TVYFL)?

TVYFL is the organization that coordinates the play between 33 individual youth football associations in the Portland tri-county area. They provide the rules, the schedules and the officials for the approximately 230 teams and 6,000 players. For more information, see the TVYFL web site: www.tvyfl.org

What is the time commitment for players and parents?

Compared to other sports, to participate in BYFL Tackle Football the time commitment is considerable. Practice will begin on Monday, August 4, 2008 and will be FIVE – 2 hour practices a week (time/place TBA) until after Labor Day when the regular season begins. After the season begins, practices are limited to THREE – 2 hour practices a week (time/place TBA). In addition to practices, games will be played every Saturday which generally requires 3 – 4 hours including travel time. There are normally 8 regular season games with the possibility of two or more weeks for playoffs, if the team qualifies (5th/6th only). Games may be played at any TVYFL association/league (see below)

What are parents expected to do?

In addition to getting players to practices and games on time, parents are expected to be ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS in the league. We need parents as field greeters, concessions, fundraising participants, field clean up, weigh masters, team parents, etc. The league is made up entirely of volunteers and each parent will be asked to help out in some way.

Who can participate?

Any child entering grades 3rd through 6th in Fall of 2008 who lives in the Barlow High School attendance area and attends Kelly Creek, Hall, Powell Valley, Deep Creek, East Orient, Hogan Cedars, West Orient Middle School, Gordon Russell Middle School or Damascus Middle School. Also, private or home schooled, in the BHS boundaries, as defined by the Gresham-Barlow School District attendance area, are also eligible to play.

What if I'm outside of Barlow High School boundaries?

Please go to the TVYFL web site to find if a TVYFL association is in your high school area. There are associations in the Centennial, Gresham, Reynolds, Sandy, David Douglas, and Estacada areas that serve East County youth along with Barlow. Boundary and transfer waivers can be applied for via association and division presidents.

Do I have to have a physical to play?

Your doctor must sign (no stamps, faxes, or photocopies) a medical release form stating that you are healthy enough to play tackle football. Many doctors want to perform a physical before they sign the form. But if you have recently had a physical, your doctor may just sign the form.

Do I have to start playing in the 3rd grade?

No. We have successful first time players at every grade level

What if I have scheduled a vacation during practice time?

If you have ANY flexibility, please try to schedule around football season, especially in August. With TVYFL conditioning requirements and team division, it is very important that your player be there if possible.

REGISTRATION:

How early can I sign up?

Registration begins April 1, 200 and is accepted on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE basis and will be time/date stamped upon completion and payment. Payment is by Debit/Credit card only. NO CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

How Late can I sign up?

June 15, 2008 is the deadline. Registration will close at 11:59 pm that evening. It is best to register early so that you are guaranteed a place on a team. Team size is capped at 30 players per TVYFL. Waiting lists may be compiled after regular registration ends.

What Forms are required for me to print and turn in after registration is complete?

- 1) **Player Contract** - this form is filled in for you when you register online. After you have fully completed online registration, **this form will be emailed to you. Please print it out for your records.** It needs to be signed and turned in at Equip. night.
- 2) **Medical Release** - you must print this form and have the player's doctor or nurse practitioner sign and date it to release your child to play Tackle football. **You will receive an email with the link or you can download it at the BYF website.**
- 3) **Grievance Form**- you must read the BYF Grievance Policy and then sign the Acknowledgement Form. **You can also download this from the BYF website.**
- 4) **Volunteer Form** - you must print this form, read and sign it. You will also receive this form in an email or **it can be downloaded from the BYF website.**

EQUIPMENT:

What equipment is provided?

BYF provides almost everything you need to play. Your helmet, mouth guard, needed pads, practice pants/jersey, game pants/jersey - Your game jersey (and mouth guard of course) are yours to keep.

Is there any other equipment costs?

There may be a refundable equipment deposit required. This will be due at Equipment night. Details TBA and will be posted on the website when available.

What equipment do I have to provide?

Football cleats – see below

Athletic cups and supporters are not required, but sometimes recommended.

Most players might need an additional mouth guard throughout the season. If you wear braces, you may want to ask your Orthodontist about any special mouth protection that you may need.

What if I need my equipment for a summer camp?

We are going to try and schedule our first equipment issue in May/June. These dates will be posted and you will be notified via email once they are confirmed. If your player plans on attending a camp and need gear, please plan on attending this first equipment night.

My helmet hurts - can I get a different one?

If is very common for your helmet to feel uncomfortable and even hurt your head for the first couple of weeks. Helmets must fit tightly to ensure a correct fit. Our equipment managers take the necessary time to make sure that each helmet is fitted properly. We recommend that once you get your equipment, that you wear your helmet before practice in order to break it in and get used to how it feels. When you put it on, remember to pull it all the way down, hard. If you continue to have discomfort, please let your coach know and we will have the equipment managers adjust the fit of your helmet.

What kind of cleat do I need?

TVYFL rules require that our players wear football cleats that are designed for youth football. They must be either a molded cleat or internally threaded shoes where no post is extending from the shoe (instead, the cleat post – screws internally into the shoe) Maximum size of cleat is 1/2 inch (measured from tip of cleat to base of shoe) No all metal, primarily metal or metal tipped cleats can be worn.

How do I take care of my equipment?

Practice jersey and pants - remove pads (if applicable) and belt (if any) and wash in warm water. These can be washed in hot water if particularly dirty. Do not bleach. Air dry or use low heat in dryer.

Game jersey and pants - Remove pads and belt (if any) and wash in cool water with like colors. Pre-treat stains if necessary. Do not bleach. Air Dry if possible as the name lettering may come off otherwise. You may even wash jersey inside out. Do not wear game jerseys or pants to practices and do not wear to play in. Game jerseys may be worn to school on Fridays to promote Saturday's games.

Shoulder and other pads - wipe off with clean, damp cloth. Allow to air dry.

Helmet - Hand wash off dirt and clean interior pads with clean, damp cloth. Allow to air dry.

TEAMS

Do I have to try out?

No. As long as your registration is complete and paid, and you are not on a waiting list, you will be placed on a team.

How are the teams divided?

When there is more than one team at a grade level or division (i.e. 3rd/4th or 5th/6th) the teams are divided by a draft. The purpose of the draft is to ensure that the teams are divided as equally as possible. TVYFL and Barlow Youth Football policy dictates that all teams be evenly matched across talent and skill levels, with no "stacked" or "developmental" teams. Each team in an age level will have the same number of players of a given grade level.

Can I request to be placed on a team with a friend?

Unfortunately, no. TVYFL requirements are very straight forward. One of the great things about Barlow Youth Football is that all of the players will be mixed with same-aged players from other elementary and middle schools. All of these schools feed into Sam Barlow High School, so this helps them make new friendships with students they will be going to school with. Siblings are the one exception to this rule.

What if I need to carpool?

Teams of the same grade level generally practice at the same field at the same time. So, if your player needs to carpool with someone from a different team, this should usually not be a problem.

Can I request a specific Coach?

No, see above.

How are the coaches picked?

Applicants for head coaching positions are reviewed and selected by the BYF Board. Assistant Coaches are selected by the Head Coach usually from among the parents of their players. All coaches need to fill out an application – available on the Barlow Youth Football website and are subject to a criminal background check. Other requirements are listed on the application.

GAMES

What is the schedule?

Game schedules are determined by the TVYFL. Players are required to arrive at the game site one hour before the game time to warm up and weigh in.

How long are the games?

Games are made up of four 10 minute quarters. With clock stoppages, half-time, moving of chains, etc. – most games last nearly 2 hours. In addition, players are expected to be at the field at least 1 hour before the game to warm up and weigh in. So plan on spending a minimum of 3 hours at a game. If the game ends in a tie, time is available, and the officials allow, there may be a “Kansas Plan” tie breaker to determine the winner.

You will also have to calculate travel time to and from the game.

How many games are there?

The 3rd/4th grade teams each play 7 scheduled games and then one “Medal” game against an opponent determined at the end of the season. The 5th/6th grade teams each play 8 scheduled games. Those in the Top 4 of their TVYFL league will move on to play Two playoff games, and those two winners will play a championship game.

Is there Equal Playing time?

The TVYFL is a very physical and competitive league. TVYFL has a minimum 10 play rule. This means the each player must play 10 plays in a game. Additional playing time can be earned in practice. Depending on the position, skill – and the especially the willingness to work hard, may get a player to play more. But, ultimately playing time is left up to the discretion of the coaches.

What is the Kansas Plan rule?

The Kansas Plan rule is a way to break ties, usually at the end of the game, but it can also be used as a playoff at the end of the regular season to determine who makes into the playoffs. Basically, the ball is placed 10 to 25 yards away from the goal (depending on the Division – or age group of the team), and the offensive team has 4 tries to score. Then the teams switch sides and the new offensive team gets 4 tries to score. If only one team scores, then they are the winner. Otherwise they repeat the process.

Who will we be playing against?

TVYFL determines the schedules. These are active youth football leagues that we may be playing: Aloha, Beaverton, Canby, Centennial, Clackamas, Colton, David Douglas, Estacada, Gladstone, Gresham, Hillsboro, Lake Oswego, Lakeridge, Liberty, Lincoln, Milwaukie, Mollala, Newberg, North Marion, Oregon City, Putnam, Sandy, Scappoose, SEI, Sherwood, Southridge, St. Helens, Sunset, Tigard, Tualatin, West Linn, Westview, Wilson & Wilsonville.